

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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the 83 KNOJ Brigade

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1. On October 10, 1949, 52 Division of the Yugoslav Army was transferred from Maribor to Bjelovar, where it reportedly remains. The complete division is housed in large barracks situated on the edge of Bjelovar on the road leading to Djurdjevi. Command and infantry units are lodged in three large four-story barracks, while other branches of the division are placed in fifty smaller barracks erected around the larger ones. In addition to four anti-aircraft units, there are eight 75 mm. anti-tank cannon and six large 180 mm. guns, each with a crew of seven men. All guns are left uncovered. Two hundred meters from the barracks, four anti-aircraft guns are in position: two assigned to Battery I and two others assigned Battery II, of Special Unit I. Twenty soldiers make up the crew. A sketch of the division's location is attached. 25X1

2. Headquarters of 83 KNOJ Brigade is in Ljubljana. Some of its units guard the frontier sector extending from the Hungarian frontier, along the Austrian frontier and Italian frontier, to Koper. 3 Battalion of this Brigade is located in the Kozina-Koper Sector, and is commanded by Captain Dobrivoje Cirkovic. Captain Ivan Janez is the Battalion's Political Commissar. 2nd Lieutenant Boris Partic commands 3 Platoon, 1 Company of the Battalion. The military post number of 3 Platoon is "8212 - Kozina".

3. KNOJ Battalion platoons guard the frontier, with each platoon responsible for its own sector. Each platoon is made up of three detachments, composed of twelve men each, and each detachment is assigned to a watch tower. Half a detachment is armed with MG-34 Russian automatics, and 72 cartridges in addition to one on the automatic itself. The other half of the detachment is assigned Dragujevac rifles. Each soldier in the latter group receives 150 cartridges and, while on duty, two grenades. Finally, each detachment has one automatic Sarac rifle, Model MG-34, usually assigned the detachment commander who is a professional non-commissioned officer.

4. Each watch tower is guarded by day with two sentinels posted one kilometer to its right and left sides. A soldier keeps watch during the day in the tower's observation post. Day sentinels are on six-hour duty. At night, half the detachment is on duty while the other half sleeps. Night duty begins at six p.m. when the day sentinels return to the watch tower, and three groups of two men each are ordered to areas designated by the detachment commander for

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purposes of ambush. As they go to and return from their places of ambush, these troops also serve as patrols. Each group has a leader who has the confidence of the detachment commander and is generally a Party member. The group remains at its place of ambush until six a.m., at which time all three groups return to the tower with the exception of two men previously ordered to take up the two daily sentinel posts. As soon as the groups return to the tower, the two soldiers assigned daily sentinel duty are ordered out to replace the two night duty men covering their posts. Thus, sentinel duty changes three times in 24 hours, at six a.m., at noon and six p.m., while men ordered on night ambush duty serve from six p.m. to six a.m. the following morning. Thus, when the daily sentinels return to the tower at six p.m., the frontier is practically open. Men on night ambush duty do not leave the tower until the daily sentinels reach it, and, during these two trips, the frontier is unguarded. While the exact time of the change in guard is known, places of ambush are designated by the detachment commander each day. In addition to guards at the places of ambush, battalion cruising patrols pass along the frontier zone but they are not responsible for the frontier line.

5. The soldier's morale is low, and he shows no desire to fight the west although told that the country must be defended against anyone who attacks it. Collective letter-writing to families is organized; those soldiers not writing are closely watched. Soldiers are instructed to counsel their families to join collective farms, and Moslems are asked to suggest to their women that the veil should be removed from their faces. News of the outside world as well as domestic Yugoslav news is extremely scarce except that of a propaganda nature. After home leave, the soldiers secretly inform their best friends of the misery of their families and dissatisfaction widens and becomes more general.

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